Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-05 L-03 /056 W

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R 110450Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2654 INFO DIVENGR RIYADH CORPS OF ENGINEERS WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL JIDDA 5091

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, MPOL, SA
SUBJECT: SAG DESIRE FOR U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO SUPERVISE
EQUESTRIAN CLUB CONSTRUCTION

- 1. AT THE INITIATIVE OF PRINCE ABDULLAH BIN ABDUL AZIZ, THIRD RANKING MEMBER FO SAG, THE U.S. CORPS OF ENGINNERRS AT RIYADH WAS INFORMED THAT H.M. KING KHALID HAS APPROVED A PRELIMINARY CONCEPT FOR AN EQUESTRIAN CLUB TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT RIYADH, AND HAS INDICATED A DESIRE THAT COE SUPERVISE THE PROJECT. THE FACILITIES ENVISAGED INCLUDE A POLO FIELD/HORSE RACE TRACK, STABLES, 5,000 SEAT GRANDSTAND, CLUB FACILITIES, GUEST VILLA, MEDICAL CLINIC AND OTHER ATHLETIC FACILITIES. THE COE HAS MADE A ROUGH COST ESTIMATE OF THE PROJECT IN THE RANGE OF \$350 TO \$400 MILLION. DESIGN COST \$9 MILLION. NONE OF THESE FIGURES THUS FAR HAVE BEEN REVEALED TO ANYONE IN SAG.
- 2. COE AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE STATE OR DEFENSE GUIDANCE WHETHER SUCH A PROJECT IS AUTHORIZED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ENGINEER ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, OR THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 1976.
- 3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LEGALITIES OF THE MATTER, PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING KING KHALID'S INTEREST EVEN THOUGH INSTIGATED BY PRINCE ABDULLAH.
WEST

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Message Attributes

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